



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 29 2010

Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3203

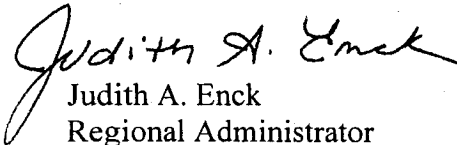
Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter of August 27, 2010, jointly addressed to the Secretary of the Navy and to Administrator Lisa P. Jackson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concerning groundwater contamination issues associated with the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, New York. Thank you also for convening and participating at the September 27, 2010 meeting in Massapequa, New York, which I and my staff attended. I found the meeting very useful in clarifying the issues associated with the contamination and charting a path forward. I also very much appreciate your leadership on protecting Long Island's drinking water supplies – it's hard to imagine a more important role for government.

As I said at the September 27, 2010 meeting, I am fully committed to protecting Long Island's drinking water resources. To further promote this goal, my office will be pleased to participate in the work group in conjunction with your office and representatives of the other parties that attended the meeting. Mr. Michael Poetzsch, Acting Chief of the New York Section, RCRA Programs Branch (212-637-4147) will represent this office and Mr. Robert Alvey, Geologist (212-637-3258) will act as the alternate member. My understanding is that your office will notify us of the exact date and time of the first work group meeting, which will be held in approximately 2 weeks. If my schedule allows, I would very much like to attend the first meeting of the work group myself.

If you have any questions, please let me know or your staff may contact Peter E. Brandt, Chief for Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, at 212-637-3657.

Sincerely,


Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

cc: Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of Navy
Commissioner Pete Grannis, NYSDEC
Gerry Petrella, Long Island District Director, Office of Senator Schumer